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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl.No.: 09/770,039

Confirmation No.: 5611

Applicant: Thrift et al

Filed: January 25, 2001

TC/AU: 2126

Examiner: Nguyen

Docket: TI-29973

Cust.No.: 23494

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 18, 2004, applicants request an extension of time in which to respond (fee transmittal enclosed) and amend as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.